

Remarks

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous interview that was held on July 2, 2002, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the following amendment in the above-identified application. In the interview, the rejection in the Office Action dated May 17, 2002 of claims 46, 47, 65-75 and 77 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) was discussed, and it was preliminarily decided that the following amendments would place the application in condition for allowance.

Claims 79-126 have been added and are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-78 have been canceled without prejudice in the interest of expediting prosecution. The subject matter of newly added claims 79-126 corresponds to that of cancelled claims 46, 47, 65-75, and 77. Newly added claims 79 and 80 correspond to cancelled claim 46. Newly added claims 81-85 represent individual members of the Markush group of claim 80. Newly added claim 86 corresponds to cancelled claim 65. Newly added claims 87-99 represent individual members of the Markush group of claim 86. Newly added claim 100 corresponds to cancelled claim 66. Newly added claim 101 corresponds to cancelled claim 67. Newly added claim 102 corresponds to cancelled claim 68. Newly added claims 103 and 104 correspond to cancelled claim 70. Newly added claim 105 corresponds to cancelled claim 71. Newly added claims 106 and 109 correspond to cancelled claim 72. Newly added claims 107, 108, 110, and 111 correspond to cancelled claims 73 and 74. Newly added claims 112-120 correspond to cancelled claims 47 and 75 and to individual members of the Markush group of claim 75. Newly added claim 121 corresponds to cancelled claim 47. Newly added claims 122-126 represent individual members of the Markush group of claim 121. No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action dated May 17, 2002, claims 46, 47, 65-75, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Bowcock *et al.* Further to the interview of July 2, 2002, newly added claims 79-126 have been reworded compared to cancelled claims 46, 47, 65-75, and 77 in order to clear up any matters of form and without affecting the scope of the claims. During the interview, the Examiner asserted that cancelled claim 46 failed to distinctly claim the subject-matter which Applicants regard as the invention because (i) it recites the limitation "wherein said continuous", and there is no antecedent basis for the term "continuous" in the claim; and (ii) the phrase "wherein said continuous span includes an amino acid selected from the group consisting of

an asparagine at amino acid position 1694 of SEQ ID NO:5 (...)” render the claim unclear because, according to the Examiner, the asparagine could be present wherever in the claimed polypeptide. The Examiner indicated that amending claim 46 to read “An isolated and purified polypeptide comprising a contiguous span of at least 6 amino acids shown as positions 1 to 1629 of SEQ ID NO:5” would overcome the rejection. In order to clarify the subject-matter that Applicants consider as their invention, the present claims have been amended to include the phrase “wherein said contiguous span comprises an amino acid selected from the group consisting of an asparagine at an amino acid position corresponding to position 1694 of SEQ ID NO:5 (...)”. Applicants believe that the wording of newly added claims 79-126 render the claims clear and precise, and that newly added claims 79-126 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is fully in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If any questions remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned to resolve such questions in a timely manner.

In view of the foregoing remarks and the amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants also invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Petition for One-Month Extension of Time